

REMARKS

With this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 2 and 10. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-9 are all the claims pending in the Application.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wu et al. (USPN 5,307,007). Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki (5,180,967) in view of Wu et al. (5,307,007).

Applicants submit the following in traversal.

Rejection of claims 1, 3 and 5-9 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wu

In view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 3 and 9, to at least incorporate the subject matter of claims 2, 4 and 10, respectively, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 5-9 under § 102(b) over Wu is moot.

Rejection of claims 1-10 under § 103 over Yamazaki in view of Wu

Claim 1

Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a bias circuit having a start-up circuit, the bias circuit including: a resistor connected between the source of the second NMOS transistor and the grounded power source, **wherein the source of the second NMOS transistor is connected to a body of the second NMOS transistor**. Such features are not disclosed in Yamazaki and Wu.

In the rejection of claim 2 in the Office Action, the Examiner argues that the second NMOS transistor 112 corresponds to the claimed second NMOS transistor. A body of the

second NMOS transistor 112 in Fig. 1 of Yamazaki, however, is connected to ground.

Therefore, there is a patentable difference in the structure of the circuit as recited in claim 1 to that disclosed by Yamazaki.

It is well known to one skilled in the art that a body effect created in the circuit disclosed in Fig. 1 of Yamazaki influences the threshold voltage and the voltage across the oxide layer of the NMOS transistor 112. Therefore, it would have not been obvious for one skilled in the art to connect a body of the second NMOS transistor 112 to the source of the second NMOS transistor 112 in the circuit disclosed in Fig. 1 of Yamazaki since such a connection would significantly change the operation of the circuit by changing the threshold voltage and the voltage across the oxide layer of the NMOS transistor 112.

For at least the reasons submitted above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those submitted for claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is patentable.

Claims 5 and 7 which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for their base claim.

Claim 3

Claim 3 recites, *inter alia*, a first NMOS transistor having a drain and a gate thereof directly connected to a drain of the third PMOS transistor to form the output node, and having a source thereof connected to a grounded power source and a second NMOS transistor having a drain thereof directly connected to the drain of the fourth PMOS transistor, and having a gate

thereof connected to the gate of the first NMOS transistor. In the Office Action, the Examiner cites NMOS transistor 112 and NMOS transistor 110 in Fig. 5 of Yamazaki as corresponding to the claimed first NMOS transistor and the second NMOS transistor respectively. Yamazaki, however, discloses in Fig. 5 a first NMOS transistor 112 having a drain and a gate directly connected to a tenth NMOS transistor 128 (col. 8, lines 22-25) and a second NMOS transistor 110 having a drain directly connected to an eleventh NMOS transistor 130 (col. 8, lines 22-25). Therefore, there is a patentable difference in the structure of the circuit as recited in claim 3 to that disclosed by Yamazaki.

For at least the reasons submitted above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 is patentable.

Claims 4, 6 and 8 which depend from claim 3, are patentable at least for the reasons submitted for their base claim.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Stuart Lee
Registration No. 61,124

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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